

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4-7, 9 and 13 have been amended. In particular, claims 4-14 have been amended to now comply with proper dependent claim form (see page 3, lines 8-11 of the Office Action). New claims 15 and 16 find basis in the application. Support for “utility vehicle” can be found at page 1, line 5. Support for “rigidity increasing means” can be found at page 4, line 34 to page 5, line 10. Accordingly, the new claims raise no issue of new matter.

The Abstract paragraph has been amended to comply with the length requirement and remove language such as “The invention relates” (see page 2, lines 1-13 of the Office Action).

New Figures 1, 2a, 2b, 2c and 2d have been provided herewith. These new figures are identical with the prior figures except for contrast. Thus, no markup of the earlier drawings has been included. Therefore, the new figures raise no issue of new matter.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph (Indefinite)

The rejection of claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite, is respectfully traversed. According to the Examiner, the phrase “in particular” in claim 1 and the phrase “preferably” in claim 9 render the claims indefinite (see page 3, line 19 to page 4, line 3 of the Office Action). As amended, the claims no longer recite the objected phrases. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections have been rendered moot.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and favorable action on all claims are respectfully requested. In the event any matters remain to be resolved in view of

this communication, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved.

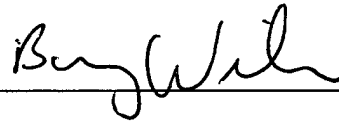
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

1/4/2006

By



FOLEY & LARDNER LLP

Customer Number: 30542

Telephone: (858) 847-6722

Facsimile: (858) 792-6773

Richard Warburg, Reg. No. 32,327

By Barry S. Wilson, Reg. No. 39,431

Attorney for Applicant

Amendments to the Drawings:

Please replace Figures 1, 2a, 2b, 2c and 2d with amended Figures 1, 2a, 2b, 2c and 2d provided herewith.